

amends the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 (FWCA, 16 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.) to make funding available to the states for the development and implementation of comprehensive native wildlife conservation plans. To be approved, a state's plan must provide for: an inventory of wildlife and its habitat on a state-wide basis; identification and prioritization of conservation actions; monitoring of plan species and the effectiveness of conservation actions; public input; and periodic plan review and revision. Funds are to be allocated on a formula based one-third on the area of a state relative to the total area of all the states and two-thirds on the relative population of a state.

States are eligible for reimbursement of 75 percent of the cost of developing and implementing state wildlife conservation plans. Federal funds are only available for plan development costs for the first 10 years. As an additional incentive, federal funds will pay for up to 90 percent of: plan development costs during the first three years; and conservation actions undertaken by two or more states. In addition, in the absence of an approved plan, the Secretary may reimburse a state for certain on-the-ground conservation actions during the first five years of the program.

FARM AND RANGE LAND, OPEN SPACE AND FOREST CONSERVATION GRANTS: \$150 MILLION

Matching, competitive grants to state, local and tribal governments for purchase of conservation easements to protect privately owned farm and range land, open space and forests from encroaching development. To help communities grow in ways that maintain open space and viable agricultural sectors of their economies. Grants could be used to match state or local long term bond initiatives approved by voters to preserve green spaces for conservation, recreation and other environmental goals.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES W. KELLEY, JR.

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the outstanding service and dedication to this country by one of Wyoming's native sons. Colonel James W. Kelley, Jr., originally from Sheridan, Wyoming, is retiring from the United States Air Force this month after 30 years of service.

Colonel Kelley has received numerous awards during his successful career in the Air Force. Although all of the awards are impressive, I am most impressed by such things as the Meritorious Service Medal for being directly involved in five serious Pararescue helicopter missions that were credited with savings six lives. Through his work in health and rescue, it is impossible to know how many people are alive today because of Colonel Kelley's bravery and dedication. An even greater number were afforded vital assistance and comfort in times of need.

I salute Colonel Kelley for his years of service to this country. Although we have come to expect people of high caliber and dedication in our Armed Forces, Colonel Kelley will be missed by the Air Force after his retirement.

As an American, I am proud of Colonel Kelley's service. Coming from Wyoming, I am proud that one of our native sons has made such a vital contribution to the defense of this great country. I'm sure I speak for every citizen of Wyoming in thanking Colonel Kelley for his years of service, and in wishing him every success in his endeavors when he retires from the Air Force.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR NORM MUSIAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Mayor Norm Musial for his many years of service and countless contributions to the citizens of North Olmsted, Ohio.

Norm Musial is a man of enormous talent and vision. His leadership and commitment to his fellow citizens have made a difference in his community. A diplomat and statesman, his contributions to the citizens of North Olmsted have been noteworthy.

Norm Musial has been an active member of the North Olmsted community since he and his wife Pat moved there in 1963. Mr. Musial is a past president of the North Olmsted Jaycees and also has served as president of the North Olmsted Republican Club. In 1967, Mayor Musial was selected as one of "Five Outstanding Young Men of Ohio", and in 1969 he was selected as "North Olmsted Citizen of the Year".

Norm Musial's sense of vision for the future, combined with his strategic planning background, sensitivity to residents' needs, and administrative experience has helped him provide uncompromised leadership to the people of North Olmsted.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting the leadership and dedication of Mayor Musial.

THE AIRLINE PASSENGER FAIRNESS ACT OF 1999

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support and acknowledge every airline passenger's right to a certain minimum of service. For this reason, I have joined my Senate colleagues Senator RON WYDEN and Senator JOHN MCCAIN in introducing the Airline Passenger Fairness Act of 1999, H.R. 752.

This bill requires airlines to give passengers, their customers, decent and quality service. Once upon a time, customers could count on industry and businesses to provide quality customer service as the price of doing business. Yet, lately, this industry seems to be operating under the philosophy that their customers need them more than they need their customers. The abuses have been plentiful and varied, passengers have suffered from a shortage of seating, late or canceled flights

without explanation, nonrefundable tickets, and failure to disclose information that would enable them to make informed decisions about various airline rates.

The facts bear me out on this position. The 1998 Department of Transportation report stated that large United States air carriers charge twice as much at their large hub airports, where there is no low fare competition, as they charge at a hub airport where a low fare competitor is present. Incredibly, the General Accounting Office discovered that fares range from 12 to 17 percent higher at hubs dominated by one carrier or a consortium. Also, the Department of Transportation's Domestic Airline Fares Consumer Report for the Third Quarter of 1997 listed seventy-five major city pairs where fares increased by 30 percent or more year-by-year, while total traffic in these cities pairs decreased by 863,500 passengers, or more than 20 percent.

This Congress should be about the work of reaffirming citizens rights in all aspects of their life. We have introduced the, "Patient's Bill of Rights" for those individuals who seek medical assistance, and we must support "The Flight Bill of Rights" for the 600 million people who use this mode of transportation per year and are increasingly dissatisfied and endangered by substandard service and treatment.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CHIPPEWA CREE TRIBE OF THE ROCKY BOY'S RESERVATION INDIAN RESERVED WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill to settle the water rights claims of the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation in the State of Montana. This bill is the culmination of many years of technical and legal work and many years of negotiations involving the Chippewa Cree Tribe, the State of Montana, and representatives of the United States Departments of the Interior and Justice. The bill will ratify a settlement quantifying the water rights of the Tribe and providing for their development in a manner that avoids harm to their neighbors. It provides Federal funds necessary for water supply facilities and Tribal economic development, and defines the Federal role in implementing the settlement. This Settlement bill has the full support of the Tribe, the State of Montana, the Administration, and the water users who farm and ranch on streams shared with the Reservation. The bill will effectuate a settlement that is a textbook example of how State, Tribal, and Federal governments can work together to resolve differences in a way that meets the concerns of all. It is also a settlement that reflects the effectiveness of Tribal and non-Tribal water users in working together in good will and good faith and with respect for each other's needs and concerns.

The Compact quantifies the Tribe's on-reservation water rights and establishes a water administration system carefully designed to